

(a) whether the small scale industrial units are proposed to be encouraged to widen its scope to meet the needs of consumer goods in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The policy measures for Promoting and Strengthening Small, Tiny, and Village Enterprises laid in Parliament on 6.8.1991 are intended to impart more vitality and growth impetus to small Scale Units including consumer goods industries.

Industries Set up in Western Maharashtra

2056. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme for industrialisation in the backward region especially in western Maharashtra is not upto the target fixed for the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the industries set up in the western region of Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(c) the details of schemes for setting up industries during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No target was set for industrial development of the backward region especially in western Maharashtra.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Filling up of SC/ST Vacancies in Ministry of Industry

2057. SHRI KISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of vacancies of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates, both in the category of officers and other categories in the Ministry of Industry in the beginning of 1991;

(b) the progress made in filling up the reserved posts during the last three months; and

(c) when the remaining reserved posts are expected to filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The backlog of vacancies of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as per figures available upto 31.3.1990, are:-

| | SC | ST |
|-----------|-----|-------------|
| Group 'A' | 33 | 22 |
| Group 'B' | 39 | 33 |
| Group 'C' | 122 | 119 |
| Group 'D' | 18 | 19 |
| Total | 212 | + 193 = 405 |

Government periodically conducts Special Recruitment Drives to fill up direct recruitment vacancies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Action has also been taken in consultation with State Governments with large SC/ST population to identify eligible and suitable candidates for filling up these vacancies. As

per information available upto 1.11.1991, 142 posts have been filled up as per details below:-

| | SC | ST |
|-----------|----|----|
| Group 'A' | 16 | 5 |
| Group 'B' | 13 | 11 |
| Group 'C' | 52 | 22 |
| Group 'D' | 12 | 11 |

Out of the remaining 263 posts, 66 posts have been entrusted to the Union Public Service Commission/Staff Selection Commission for direct recruitment. 197 posts have been advertised in the news papers/entrusted to the employment exchanges and voluntary organisations for recruitment of suitable candidates.

Another Special Recruitment Drive has also commenced.

Revamping of Coir Industry

2058. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any project from Kerala Government for revamping the Coir industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The Integrated Coir Development Project drawn by the State Government of Kerala with a total cost of Rs. 5,000 lakhs to be shared among the National Co-operative Development Corporation

Limited, the Central Government and the State Government has been received and is being processed.

Supply of Soda Ash

2059. SHRI PARAS RAMBHARDWAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest guidelines issued for supply of soda ash to consumers by the manufactures;

(b) the percentage to be reserved for supply through cooperatives like Super Bazar, State cooperative outlets, etc.;

(c) whether the present production is sufficient to meet the demands of the consumers;

(d) if not, whether any proposals are under the consideration of Government to bridge the gap between the demand and the supply; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Government of India has not issued any guidelines for supply of Soda Ash to consumers by the manufactures.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Transfer of Letter of Intent

2060. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been made any